

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7435

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CONS, WG, EG, AU

SUBJECT: FRG-AUSTRIAN PROBLEMS OVER PROJECTED

GDR-AUSTRIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT.

REF: A) BONN 1075; B) BERLIN 5099

SUMMARY: FRG CABINET HAS DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF CLAUSE ON CITIZENSHIP IN AUSTRIAN-GDR PROJECTED CONSULAR CONVENTION AND IS TAKING MATTER EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY. FRG UNHAPPY WITH UK ON THIS POINT AND IS CONCERNED ALSO ABOUT US AND FRENCH INTENTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL HAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT JAN 22 CABINET MEETING INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF AUSTRIAN INITIALLING OF CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH GDR WHICH CONTAINS CLAUSE HAVING EFFECT THAT GDR LAW WOULD GOVERN WHO IS GDR CITIZEN. VAN WELL SAID THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF "GERMAN" CITIZENSHIP IS ONE OF THE MOST SENSITIVE ON INNER-GERMAN SCENE, ONE ON WHICH FRG HAS CONSISTENTLY SINCE EARLY POSTWAR PERIOD
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CAREFULLY PROTECTED ITS POSITION, AND ONE WHICH REMAINS

TOTALLY UNRESOLVED. THE AUSTRIANS, SAID VAN WELL, HAVE STATED THEIR PREPAREDNESS TO GIVE BONN A CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT SAYING THAT OBJECTIONABLE CLAUSE IN GDR-AUSTRIAN AGREEMENT WOULD NOT CHANGE AUSTRIAN PRACTICE IN DEALING WITH GERMANS, BUT THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO FRG SINCE IT WOULD CREATE AN "IMBALANCE" IN AUSTRIAN RELATIONS WITH GDR ON ONE HAND (WHO WOULD HAVE PUBLIC DOCUMENT) AND WITH FRG ON OTHER (WHO WOULD HAVE CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT). VAN WELL TOLD EMBOFF BONN WANTS EQUAL TREATMENT, I.E., A DOCUMENT WHICH CAN BE USED PUBLICLY. HE INDICATED IT APPEARED UNLIKELY THAT VIENNA WOULD AGREE AND, IN THIS CASE, BONN WOULD ASK VIENNA NOT TO SIGN THE CONVENTION WITH THE GDR.

2. VAN WELL SAID THAT AUSTRIAN ACCEPTANCE OF GDR CLAUSE WOULD BE BAD ENOUGH, BUT OF GREATEST CONSEQUENCE WAS WHAT THREE ALLIES WOULD DO. BONN WOULD REGRET IT PARTICULARLY IF ANY OF THREE ALLIES, WHO HAD APPROVED ARTICLE 116 OF BASIC LAW (DEFINITION OF GERMAN), WERE TO ACCEPT THE GDR CLAUSE. VAN WELL SAID BONN IS VERY UNHAPPY OVER WHERE UK NOW IS ON THIS WITH GDR AND IS IN CONTACT WITH LONDON. REGARDING THE US, HE SAID THE FRG DID NOT WISH TO MIX IN US-GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR BONN TO CONCEIVE OF ANY SITUATION IN WHICH THE US WOULD BE INCLINED TO GIVE SO MUCH TO THE GDR WITHOUT OBTAINING SOMETHING VERY SUBSTANTIAL IN RETURN. VAN WELL CLOSED CONVERSATION BY REMARKING THAT THE CABINET WAS NOW SEIZED OF THE PROBLEM AND IS TAKING IT VERY SERIOUSLY.
HILLENBRAND

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